

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2945
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, GE, GW, WB
SUBJ: GDR REJECTION OF CDU STERNFAHRT

REF: USBERLIN 1689

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS AUGUST 14, MAJORITY OF BUSES
OF "STERNFAHRT" CARRYING YOUNG CDU MEMBERS TO RALLY IN BERLIN
WERE TURNED BACK BY GDR AUTHORITIES AT HELMSTEDT CROSSING POINT.
(TAGESSPIEGEL REPORTED THAT FOURTEEN BUSES WERE TURNED BACK, WHILE
MORGENPOST SAID THAT TWELVE OF EIGHTEEN BUSES FAILED TO MAKE IT
THROUGH.) EAST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY ADN CONFIRMED THAT DENIAL OF
TRANSIT TO BERLIN BY BUSES WAS BASED ON ARTICLE 16 OF TRANSIT
AGREEMENT IN THAT THERE WERE "GROUND FOR SUSPICION THAT A MISUSE
OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES WAS PLANNED".

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT DURING EVENING OF AUGUST 13, FRG PERM-
REP GAUS EXPRESSED TO GDR FONOFF HIS "CONCERN OVER THE INCIDENTS
ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES" AND PROMISED THAT IF SATISFACTORY EXPLAN-
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ATION NOT FORTHCOMING, FRG WOULD MAKE "SHARPEST PROTEST". GOVMAYOR

SCHUETZ QUOTED SAYING THAT INCIDENTS WERE "CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT, IF NOT EVEN A RUPTURE" AND SAID HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN BERLIN HE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

3. DESPITE GDR ACTIONS, AND PERHAPS EVEN BECAUSE OF THEM, CDU RALLY AT REICHSTAG WAS GREAT SUCCESS. ACCORDING TO MISOFF WHO WAS AT SCENE, AT LEAST SIX THOUSAND PERSONS TOOK PART. ORIGINALLY CDU HOPED FOR FIVE THOUSAND AND MANY POLITICAL OBSERVERS DOUBTED THEY WOULD GET HALF THAT MANY PARTICIPANTS. FEATURED SPEAKER WAS CDU GEN SECRETARY BIEDENKOPF WHO STRONGLY CRITICIZED GDR FOR REFUSING PERMIT BUSIES TO TRAVEL TO BERLIN. HE DECLARED THAT BERLIN WALL CONSTRUCTION WAS ONE OF "DARK PAGES IN GERMAN HISTORY" AND THAT PURPOSE OF RALLY WAS TO DEMONSTRATE TO WORLD THAT GERMANS WOULD NEVER GROW ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH INJUSTICE. BERLIN CDU LEADER LUMMER DENIED THAT GERMANS WANTED NEW NATIONALISM

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RATHER SELF-DETERMINATION AND VOWED "WE WILL FIGHT FOR IT." LUMMER DECLARED THAT CDU WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO FULFILL ADENAUER'S PLEDGE TO REUNITE GERMANY. HE ACCUSED SPD OF HAVING SYMPATHY FOR THE "WALLBUILDERS" AND DECLARED THAT ALL SOCIALISTS HAD BECOME "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EASTERN REGIME".

4. ATMOSPHERE AT RALLY WAS TENSE. FLICKERING LIGHTS OF NUMEROUS TORCHES ILLUMINATED HISTORIC REICHSTAG BUILDING AND ADJACENT BERLIN WALL. KNOWLEDGE THAT GDR HAD DENIED PASSAGE TO MANY OF PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS ADDED ADDITIONAL SOMBER NOTE TO THE OCCASION. GEORGE

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